

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the original Title before paragraph 0001 with the following amended Title:

**GATHERING AND PICKING DEVICE HAVING A CURVED PICKING GAP**

Please replace paragraph 0011 with the following amended paragraph:

[0011] Figure 1 is a top view of a gathering and picking device 10. A harvesting machine comprises a series of identical gathering and picking devices 10 that are arranged laterally adjacent to one another. These gathering and picking devices 10 are connected to one another by a beam that is arranged at their rear, and is not illustrated in the figure. During the harvest, the beam is attached to the feeder house of a combine-harvester or the gathering channel of a field chopper, and the harvesting machine is driven over a field. The harvesting implement 40 is moved in a forward direction V by the supporting harvesting vehicle through standing plants during a harvesting operation. In the following description, directional indications such as front, rear, bottom and top refer to the forward direction V of the gathering and picking device 10.